

# NEWS

FROM

STATE SENATOR

**SAM ANNESTAD**

4<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

Northern California



March 7, 2004



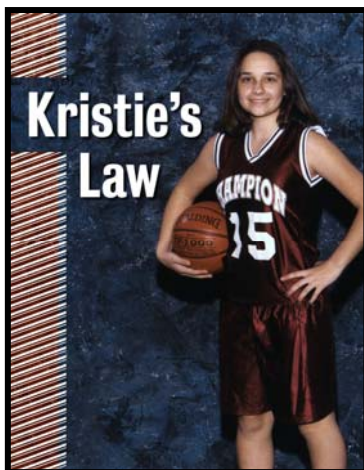
## Kristie's KRISTIE'S LAW Law



A young lady named Kristie Priano is the focus of new legislation that I am co-authoring with Senator Gloria Romero. Priano was a young, bright and energetic 15-year old Chico student whose life was cut short three years ago following a tragic accident involving a law enforcement pursuit. In response to this tragedy, and the same tragedy that has affected other California families, I have introduced a bill called "Kristie's Law."

### Kristie's Story

Kristie Priano was like any other 15-year old teenager on any normal family outing on January 22, 2002, when tragedy struck. Kristie was on her way to a basketball game when the family van was hit by another driver who was fleeing from police. Kristie suffered fatal injuries and died a week later.



### A Tragic Accident

Police knew the identity of the 15-year old driver that struck the Priano van. The suspect had taken her mother's car, who, in turn, called police for help. In running from police, the teenager caused the accident that took Kristie's life.

### Many Victims

Kristie Priano is not the only innocent victim to die from a high-speed pursuit. Statistics show 51 Californians were killed during high-speed police pursuits in 2001 – an average of nearly one per week. Nearly half of the deaths were innocent bystanders or drivers of other vehicles that were not involved as a suspect or an officer in the pursuit.

### Kristie's Law

I have introduced legislation that is designed to save innocent lives that have been lost during high-speed chases involving law enforcement agencies in California.

### New Policies Needed

Peace officer pursuits involving motor vehicles inherently presents a risk to the public. The **PRIMARY** responsibility of law enforcement is to ensure that innocent third parties are reasonably shielded from any risk emanating from these pursuits. It is also necessary to assist peace officers in the performance of their duties.

### The Los Angeles Example

The Los Angeles Police Department adopted a new policy for high-speed pursuits involving minor traffic offenses in 2002. That policy is credited for a 78% drop in injuries to bystanders. Injuries to law enforcement officers also dropped 33%.

### Stop Creating New Victims

As a State Legislator, it is my responsibility to protect the most vulnerable in situations that are outside of their control. The innocent bystander that is harmed from a pursuit is nothing less than the most vulnerable innocent victim, not "collateral damage."

For more information, visit:  
<http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/4>